

What is claimed is:

1. A filter device for filtering blood or blood product to remove components of the blood or blood product from the blood or blood product comprising:

a body having a substantially vertical partition wall fixed to the inner periphery of said body, said partition wall dividing said body into a first filter well on one side of said partition wall, and a second filter well on the other side of said partition wall, with the central axis of both said first and said second filter wells oriented substantially horizontal,

a first filtration media comprised of at least one filter element disposed within and sealed to said first filter well to prevent bypass around said first filtration media, thereby dividing said first filter well into a first chamber upstream of said first filtration media, and a second chamber downstream of said first filtration media, with the outer edge of all of the filter elements of said first filtration media disposed below the top of said first filter well, and with the shape of the outer edge of each filter element of said first filtration media being the same as the shape of the side wall of said first filter well, thereby providing a means to seal each filter element of said first filtration media to said first filter well with a compression fit between the outer edge of said first filtration media and the side wall of said first filter well,

a second filtration media comprised of at least one filter element disposed within and sealed to said second filter well to prevent bypass around said second filtration media, thereby dividing said second filter well into a first chamber upstream of said second filtration media, and a second chamber downstream of said second filtration media, with the outer edge of all of the filter elements of said second filtration media disposed below the top of said second filter well, and with the shape of the outer edge of each filter element of said second filtration media being the same as the shape of the side wall of said second filter well, thereby providing a means to seal each filter element of said second filtration media to said second filter well with a compression fit between the outer edge of said second filtration media and the side wall of said second filter well,

a cross port located on said body with the central axis of said cross port oriented substantially parallel to the central axis of said first filter well and said second filter well,

an inlet port, with one end of said inlet port adjoining and in direct fluid flow communication with a portion of said cross port, thereby dividing said cross port into a front cross port between the intersection of said inlet port and one end of said cross port, and a back cross port between the intersection of said inlet port and the opposite end of said cross port,

a front cover sealed with a first seal to said body, said first seal forming a single closed loop that encloses the outer periphery of said first filter well and the outlet end of said front cross port, thereby creating a closed first chamber upstream of said first filter

well, with the outlet end of said front cross port in fluid flow communication with said first chamber upstream of said first filter well, thereby creating a flow path from said inlet port, through said front cross port, into said first chamber of said first filter well,

a back cover sealed with a second seal to said body, said second seal forming a single closed loop that encloses the outer periphery of said second filter well and the outlet end of said back cross port, thereby creating a closed first chamber upstream of said second filter well, with the outlet end of said back cross port in fluid flow communication with said first chamber upstream of said second filter well, thereby creating a flow path from said inlet port, through said back cross port, into said first chamber of said second filter well,

an outlet port in fluid flow communication with said second chamber of said first filter well, and in fluid flow communication with said second chamber of said second filter well.

2. The filter device of claim 1 wherein at least one filter element of the first filtration media is sealed to the first filter well with a compression fit between the outer edge of said at least one filter element and the side wall of the first filter well.

3. The filter device of claim 1 wherein a first filter compression ring is disposed within said first filter well, and wherein the outer periphery of the upstream surface of said first filtration media is compressed by said first filter compression ring, thereby sealing the upstream surface of said first filtration media to said first filter well.

4. The filter device of claim 2 wherein a first filter compression ring is disposed within said first filter well, and wherein the outer periphery of the upstream surface of said first filtration media is compressed by said first filter compression ring, thereby sealing the upstream surface of said first filtration media to said first filter well.

5. A method of processing blood or blood product comprising:

passing the blood or blood product through a filter device having an inlet port and an outlet port, and defining at least one fluid flow path between the inlet port and the outlet port, and having a filtration media comprised of at least one filter element interposed between the inlet port and the outlet port and across the fluid flow path, with said filtration media disposed within and sealed to a filter well to prevent bypass around said filtration media, with the outer edge of all of the filter elements of said filtration media disposed below the top of said filter well, and with the shape of the outer edge of each filter element of said filtration media being the same as the shape of the side wall of said filter well, thereby providing a means to seal each filter element of said filtration media

to said filter well with a compression fit between the outer edge of each filter element of said filtration media and the side wall of said filter well, wherein passing the blood or blood product through the device includes passing the blood or blood product through a cross port, located between the inlet port and said filtration media.